

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/691,995

Examiner

Alex B. Toy

Applicant(s)

SCHMIDT ET AL.

Art Unit

3739

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on December 13, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 12/13/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgment is made of applicant's perfected claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). The certified translated copy of DE 102 54 294.5-45 has been filed in this Application No. 10/691995, filed on December 13, 2005.

Response to Amendment

This action is in response to applicant's amendment filed on December 13, 2005. The 112, first paragraph rejections of claims 6-10 and the 112, second paragraph rejections of claims 1-10 are withdrawn in view of the appropriate amendments. The 103(a) rejections of claims 1-10 based on Saruya are withdrawn in view of the perfected claim for foreign priority.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-18 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding independent claim 1, Kummerfeld (U.S. Pat. No. 5,113,897) discloses a data transmission facility with a plug connection 40 at the bottom of the side of the supply unit (Fig. 1) and not at the middle of the unit. The related prior art does not teach

Art Unit: 3739

placing such a plug connection at the middle of a supply unit. Therefore, there is no motivation to move the data plug connection of Kummerfeld from the bottom of the side of the unit to the middle of the unit.

Regarding claims 3 and 8, Kummerfeld and the analogous prior art do not disclose or suggest using sensors comprising photoelectric cells with a supply unit.

Regarding claims 4 and 9, Kummerfeld and the analogous prior art do not disclose or suggest using flaps as splash proofing with a supply unit.

Independent claims 6 and 11 recite further specific limitations regarding the placement and orientation of the plug/socket connections that define over Kummerfeld and the analogous prior art.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the amendments that put the claims in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alex B. Toy whose telephone number is (571) 272-1953. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda C.M. Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272-4764. The fax phone

Art Unit: 3739

number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AT *AT*
1/23/06

Michael Peffley
MICHAEL PEFFLEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER